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Km

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Commissioner Jane E. Henney
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

The Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization are ardent in their support of banning the addition of medically important antibiotics to animal feed to promote growth. AND FOR GOOD REASON!!

The practice, banned by the European Union for years, is causing antibiotics, such as Vancomycin, to become resistant to bacteria. An important example of this is that more than half the strains of *Enterococcus faecium*, a bacterium that causes infections after surgery, are resistant to it. Even a new antibiotic, Synercid, approved by the Food and Drug Administration just last September, 1999, is becoming resistant to bacteria. WHY? Because a close relative of Synercid, Virginiamycin, has been routinely fed to poultry (to speed growth) for over a decade.

Why is the Clinton Administration fighting the ban of antibiotics in animal feed? Is it to appease the U.S. meat packers and drug companies? ARE THEY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY?

I urge you to support the ban of antibiotics in animal feed. Our very lives depend on it!!

Trustfully yours,

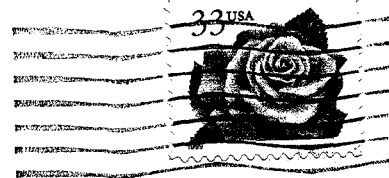
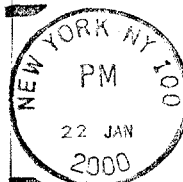
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